

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06697 161518Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /139 W

----- 103349

R 142241Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8942

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 6697

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CO, VE

SUBJECT: FONMIN VAZQUEZ VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REFS: BOGOTA 6218; CARACAS 6357

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA DEPARTED 1600 LOCAL TIME AUGUST 14 FOR CARACAS, WHERE UNTIL AUGUST 20, HE WILL CONFER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI AND OTHER GOV OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CALDERA. AMONG THOSE ACCOMPANYING THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE ALBERTO GONZALEZ FERNANDEZ, COORDINATOR OF THE MIXED COLOMBIAN/VENEZUELAN COMMISSION; JULIO LONDONO PAREDES, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BOUNDARY OFFICE; PRIVATE SECRETARY GUILLERMO TRIANA, AND FATERH RAFAEL GOMEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN ACADEMY OF JUISPRUDENCE.

2. VAZQUEZ' SCHEDULE INCLUDES CONFERENCES ON CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION AND THE INAUGURATION OF THE COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AS WELL AS CERTAIN CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS. THE PRESENCE

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06697 161518Z

OF MAJOR LONDONO, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT A GOOD DEAL OF

DISCUSSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE GULF OF VENEZUELA BORDER DISPUTE. LONDONO ATTENDED THE ROME NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE COLOMBIAN POSITION.

3. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION IN THE BOGOTA PRESS THAT VEZQUEZ' VISIT REFLECTS AND ACCEPTANCE BY PRESIDENT PASTRANA, DURING HIS JULY VISIT, OF THE VENEZUELAN PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN SOLVING THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE. THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HAS NOT, TO DATE, LEARNED OF ANY CHANGE IN THE GOC POSITION IN FAVOR OF REFERRING THE DISPUTE TO SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR DECISION.

4. NEITHER GOC OFFICIALS NOR THE LOCAL PRESS APPEAR TO ANTICIPATE A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE BOUNDARY ISSUE AT THIS TIME. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT, IN COMMON WITH THE PASTRANA VISIT, THE MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS WILL ADVANCE THE EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT OF AN ISSUE THAT BOTH PARTIES WISH TO PUT TO REST.

5. THE MIXED COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF CALVANI'S VISIT TO COLOMBIA IN DECEMBER, 1971 TO "STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES". THE MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND JURIDICAL BONDS BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA.  
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